

another one. I would like nothing better than to demolish the Maximus contract. That is the bill that I'm talking to you all about that I had taken from the agenda. I had a discussion with the Speaker, along with Senator Bromm, about changing the agenda. I didn't tell him this, maybe I mentioned it to him afterward, but I had said I wanted to take that bill off the agenda. I had indicated that some statements had been made by the other side and suggestions about amending the contract and all such things as that that would require additional time. But, in reality, LB 613, that lid bill, was one that was on everybody's mind. Well, now 613 has been dealt with. A point has been reached where I feel like I can try to have my priority bill put back on the list. If we discuss this bill, maybe we won't get to it. If I insist on discussing issues that I think are important, maybe when my bill to add a judge to Douglas County comes up, the juvenile court, everybody will be so angry they will vote against the bill, then Douglas County won't have a juvenile judge this year and I'll have to come back and try it next year. See, what I'm reminding you all, right, Senator Landis, I have bills that make me vulnerable, if being vulnerable is going to determine whether or not I discuss these issues and it won't. This is important. I do have cases brought to me by families whose cases have been mishandled by DSS employees. I have gone to the Foster Care Review Board and have obtained assistance in working out some of these cases. The most recent one occurred on a Friday night after the courts had shut down but a youngster who had been physically abused and you could see the...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...marks of abuse on him with your eyes, the judge sent him back into that abusive situation and a member of the Foster Care Review Board came to me in a panic asking, isn't there something I can do. But the courthouse had shut down, there was nobody I could contact. Over the weekend, I think they continued to try to do some work. I have never had a DSS employee come to me frantic because some child had been inappropriately handled by the court or inappropriately placed. I do know of instances when...well, I won't mention that, but in the Franklin case, DSS...that's old laundry, but there were things that they did not do that could have been helpful because of the then Governor's attitude about the whole thing and other people were told stay out of it.